



Embassy of the United States of America

ARTICLE ALERT

JANUARY 2013

U.S. Embassy Jakarta Mission Statement

Based on mutual respect and shared values, the U.S. Mission works with Indonesia to strengthen democracy, sustain the environment, promote prosperity, enhance understanding and ensure security for our people, our nations, and our region.

THE SECOND INAUGURATION OF BARACK OBAMA



Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts administers the oath of office to President Barack Obama during the Inaugural swearing-in ceremony at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., Jan. 21, 2013. (Official White House Photo by Sonya N. Hebert)

On January 21st, 2013 at 11:55 AM Eastern Time, President Obama delivered his Second Inau-

gural Address. The speech was 2,137 words long and took 15 minutes to deliver.

"America's possibilities are limitless," he said, "for we possess all the qualities that this world without boundaries demands: youth and drive; diversity and openness; an endless capacity for risk and a gift for reinvention. My fellow Americans, we are made for this moment, and we will seize it -- so long as we seize it together."

Related Links:

- ◆ Read the official transcript (full version) at:
<http://tinyurl.com/aawslvf>
- ◆ Watch the video of Inauguration speech at:
<http://tinyurl.com/azsm6ov>
- ◆ Explore photo gallery of historic Inaugurations at:
<http://tinyurl.com/ape67zr>
- ◆ IRC information package on Peaceful Transitions in Power is available at:
<http://tinyurl.com/afhqfm2>

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY 2013

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Foremost among the rights Americans hold sacred is the freedom to worship as we choose. Today, we celebrate one of our Nation's first laws to protect that right -- the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. Written by Thomas Jefferson and guided through the Virginia legislature by James Madison, the Statute affirmed that "Almighty God hath created the mind free" and "all men shall be free to profess . . . their opinions in matters of religion." Years later, our Founders looked to the Statute as a model when they enshrined the principle of religious liberty in the Bill of Rights.

Because of the protections guaranteed by our Constitution, each of us has the right to practice our faith openly and as we choose. As a free country, our story has been shaped by every language and enriched by every culture. We are

a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus, Sikhs and non-believers. Our patchwork heritage is a strength we owe to our religious freedom.

Americans of every faith have molded the character of our Nation. They were pilgrims who sought refuge from persecution; pioneers who pursued brighter horizons; protesters who fought for abolition, women's suffrage, and civil rights. Each generation has seen people of different faiths join together to advance peace, justice, and dignity for all.

Today, we also remember that religious liberty is not just an American right; it is a universal human right to be protected here at home and across the globe. This freedom is an essential part of human dignity, and without it our world cannot know lasting peace.

As we observe Religious Freedom Day, let us remember the legacy of faith and independence we have inherited, and let us honor it by

forever upholding our right to exercise our beliefs free from prejudice or persecution.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim January 16, 2013, as Religious Freedom Day. I call on all Americans to commemorate this day with events and activities that teach us about this critical foundation of our Nation's liberty, and show us how we can protect it for future generations at home and around the world.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

BARACK OBAMA

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/9wvaeya>

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DEMOCRACY & IMPROVING GOVERNANCE

1. CAN AMERICA BE FIXED? THE NEW CRISIS OF DEMOCRACY / Fareed Zakaria. Foreign Affairs, January/February 2013.

The crisis of democracy identified in the 1970s never really went away; it was just papered over with temporary solutions and obscured by a series of lucky breaks. Today, the problems have mounted, and yet American democracy is more dysfunctional than ever -- and it has fewer levers to pull in a globalized economy. This time, the pessimists might be right. Full text is available via eLibraryUSA Database

2. FAITH ON THE HILL: THE RELIGIOUS COMPOSITION OF THE 113TH CONGRESS. / The Pew Forum of Religion & Public Life, November 2012.



The new, 113th Congress includes the first Buddhist to serve in the Senate, the first Hindu to serve in either chamber and the first member of Congress to

describe her religion as "none," continuing a gradual increase in religious diversity that mirrors trends in the country as a whole. While Congress remains majority Protestant, the institution is far less so today than it was 50 years ago, when nearly three-quarters of the members belonged to Protestant denominations. Catholics have seen the biggest gains among the 533 members who are scheduled to be sworn in on Jan. 3. Catholics picked up seven seats, for a total of 163, raising their share to just over 30%. Protestants and Jews experienced the biggest declines in numerical terms. Jews now hold 33 seats (6%), six fewer than in the 112th Congress, where Jews held 39 seats (7%). Protestants lost eight seats, though they continue to occupy about the same proportion of seats (56%) as in the 112th Congress (57%). Complete report is available at <http://tinyurl.com/c9cmnjc>

3. TOP 10 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES TO WATCH IN 2013 / Dylan Scott, Ryan Holeywell. Governing Magazine, January 2013.

Governing compiled the 10 of the biggest topics states will tackle in the year ahead start

from expanding medic-aid, the return of revenue, the fiscal cliff (and beyond), implementing common core, helping veterans, funding infrastructure, legislating marijuana, more pension tinkering, citizens united backlash and ruling on the voting rights act. Available online at <http://tinyurl.com/c3pq4fe>

4. THE SECOND COMING: WHAT CAN THE 44TH PRESIDENT REALLY ACHIEVE IN HIS SECOND TERM? HERE ARE 10 IDEAS. Foreign Policy, January/February 2013

If you were to print out all the white papers, op-eds, and think-tank reports urging U.S. President Barack Obama to do this or that in his second term, the sheer amount of paper produced would probably require chopping down the Amazon rain forest. There's a reason these well-intentioned ideas generally sit on the shelf: They're unrealistic. Wave a magic wand, and the president can do everything from make peace in the Middle East to reshape the entire world economy in America's favor. What follows is something different: advice he can actually implement. Available online at <http://tinyurl.com/ah2zmg>

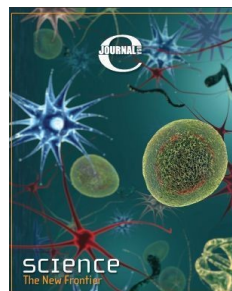
ENVIRONMENT & GLOBAL ISSUES

5. ANOTHER ROUND OF COSMOS / Curtis Brainard. Columbia Journalism Review, January / February 2013

When it comes to making science popular and accessible, astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson does it all. He's the director of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, which has inspired visitors from around the world to ponder the depths of space. He's written more than half a dozen books and hosted a series on PBS called NOVA scienceNOW. His illustrated avatar even met Superman last fall, when DC Comics asked him to help pinpoint a plausible location for the Man of Steel's home planet, Krypton. Tyson is a regular on national news shows and makes frequent cameos on The Daily Show and The Colbert Report. His simple yet profound statements about everything from cosmology to climate change have been sliced and diced into a host of viral YouTube videos, with inspiring titles like "The Most Astounding Fact" and "I'm With Neil!" He has nearly 900,000 Twitter followers, and his Facebook

page has more than 164,000 Likes. Tyson doesn't wander out into the museum as much as he used to, his assistant told CJR's Curtis Brainard when he interviewed him in his office above the planetarium in December. Available online at <http://tinyurl.com/affa6ut>

6. SCIENCE: THE NEW FRONTIER (IIP Digital, January 2013)



This issue of eJournal USA explores how science is conducted in the 21st century: How the Internet and other technologies are helping shape both the questions pursued by scientists and the ways in which scientists interact and share new knowledge. It also highlights some of the remarkable progress already achieved by

younger scientists in understanding the genesis of disease, our place in the universe and the circuitry of the brain. Their scientific pursuits expand the horizons of human knowledge and hold promise for improving the lives of people today and far into the future. Available online at <http://tinyurl.com/abev3v7>

7. STEM: MAKING A DIFFERENCE (IIP Digital, January 2013)

The fields of science, technology, engineering and math — collectively known as STEM — are revolutionizing the world around us. From solar panels and mobile phones to cancer treatments and robotic arms, innovations through STEM are addressing global challenges and offering global solutions. But STEM isn't just for adults. Meet a few young people who are using STEM to have fun and make a difference. Available at <http://tinyurl.com/a9fkj6s>

ECONOMIC & INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

8. LAW AND ETHICS FOR ROBOT SOLDIERS / Kenneth Anderson and Matthew Waxman. Policy Review, January 2013

A lethal sentry robot designed for perimeter protection, able to detect shapes and motions, and combined with computational technologies to analyze and differentiate enemy threats from friendly or innocuous objects — and shoot at the hostiles. A drone aircraft, not only unmanned but programmed to independently rove and hunt prey, perhaps even tracking enemy fighters who have been previously “painted and marked” by military forces on the ground. Robots individually too small and mobile to be easily stopped, but capable of swarming and assembling themselves at the final moment of attack into a much larger weapon. These (and many more) are among the ripening fruits of automation in weapons design. Some are here or close at hand, such as the lethal sentry robot designed in South Korea. Others lie ahead in a future less and less distant. Available online at <http://tinyurl.com/agephq7>

9. WHAT'S INSIDE AMERICA'S BANKS? / Frank Partnoy and Jesse Eisinger. The Atlantic, January/February 2013.

Some four years after the 2008 financial crisis,

public trust in banks is as low as ever. Sophisticated investors describe big banks as “black boxes” that may still be concealing enormous risks—the sort that could again take down the economy. A close investigation of a supposedly conservative bank's financial records uncovers the reason for these fears—and points the way toward urgent reforms. Available online at <http://tinyurl.com/aohxqg6>

10. THE GOVERNMENT GAP / Joshua Lustig and Alan Sorensen. Current History, January 2013.

Barack Obama won reelection in 2012 with the slogan that America needs to move “forward, not back.” A sluggish recovery from economic crisis, the president argues, justified no return to failed policies that helped provoke the crisis. The same can be said for the world in 2013. Globalization, slowed by advanced economies' malaise, is still outpacing efforts to manage its risks and byproducts. Better multilateral coordination is needed to narrow the gap. Available in print at the IRC collection.

11. THE INEQUALITY CHALLENGE / Uri Dadush, Kemal Derviş. Carnegie Endowment, January 2013

High levels of inequality have become a sub-

ject of intense debate, particularly in the United States, where inequality has risen sharply over the past 30 years. The rise in inequality in most advanced countries and in many developing countries should be analyzed in the context of other big changes that have affected the global economy over the past three decades. These trends include major technological advances, mostly related to information technology; globalization, which has accelerated growth in many developing nations; and the changing role of the state. Available at Current History, January 2013, Brookings Institute and Carnegie Endowment website <http://tinyurl.com/aw4f932>

eLibraryUSA Database



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To get training and personal account, please request to ircjakarta@state.gov.

U.S. EDUCATION, SOCIETY & VALUES

12. E-BOOK READING JUMPS; PRINT BOOK READING DECLINES / Lee Rainie and Maeve Duggan. Pew Internet & American Life Project, December 27, 2012

The population of e-book readers is growing. In the past year, the number of those who read e-books increased from 16% of all Americans ages 16 and older to 23%. At the same time, the number of those who read printed books in the previous 12 months fell from 72% of the population ages 16 and older to 67%. Overall, the number of book readers in late 2012 was 75% of the population ages 16 and older, a small and statistically insignificant decline from 78% in late 2011. Complete report is available at <http://tinyurl.com/c7rfj8b>

13. ONLINE CLASSES SEE CHEATING GO HIGH-TECH / Jeffrey R. Young. Educational Digest, January 2013

Easy A's may be even easier to score these days, with the growing popularity of online courses. Tech-savvy students are finding ways to cheat that let them ace online courses with minimal effort, in ways that are difficult to detect. Take Bob Smith, a student at a public university in the United States. This past semester, he spent just 25 to 30 minutes each week on an online science course, the time it took him to take the weekly test. He never read the online materials for the course and never cracked open a textbook. He learned almost nothing. He got an A. His secret was to cheat, and he's proud of the method he came up with—though he asked that his real name and college not be used, because he doesn't want to get caught. It involved four friends and a shared Google Doc, an online word-processing file that all five of them could read and add to at the same time during the test.

Full text also available online at Chronicle of Higher Education <http://tinyurl.com/7ypkot4>

14. WHAT'S A STORE FOR? / Horyn, Cathy. New York Times Magazine, December 16, 2012.

Great stores reflects the cultural life and aesthetic priorities of a city. Barney's was very attached to a New Yorker, the way Woody Allen was in film. It was kind of the sense that customers were the enlighten New Yorkers. Here, Horyn describes the crazy maneuvering of Barney, the post-war expansiveness of Fred Pressman, the arrogance of Gene, and the future of the store with Richard Perry. Full text is available via eLibraryUSA Database.

FREE PROGRAMS

- ◆ i-Literacy Sessions: eLibraryUSA Database classes; information resources presentations on American studies, English learning and teaching, etc; reference guidelines to assist students in doing research.
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- ☐ 2. FAITH ON THE HILL
- ☐ 3. TOP 10 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES TO WATCH IN 2013
- ☐ 4. THE SECOND COMING
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- ☐ 14. WHAT'S A STORE FOR?

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